



NAME: CAPTAIN RICHARD A. STOWE, PHARM.D.

JOB TITLE: ASSISTANT CHIEF PHARMACIST

AGENCY: INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE (IHS)

EDUCATION/DEGREES/CERTIFICATES/INSTITUTIONS:

CAPT Stowe completed his Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and in Biology in 1976 at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He later received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Idaho State University in 1993.

CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION:

CAPT Stowe currently serves as Assistant Chief Pharmacist for Inpatient Pharmacy at the Hastings Indian Medical Center in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. His responsibilities include providing comprehensive clinical pharmacy services via pharmacokinetic consultations, nutritional support assessments, antibiotic therapy review, drug information services, and inpatient drug utilization review. He is responsible for monitoring patients on high risk medications, conducting drug evaluations for the Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P & T) Committee, and supervising his staff of pharmacists and support personnel. CAPT Stowe presents to the P&T Committee case reviews and reports for poisonings and adverse drug reactions such as bleeds secondary to anticoagulation and inappropriate antibiotic use.

CAPT Stowe is responsible for coordinating the administrative activities of the inpatient pharmacy including the following activities: writing policies and procedures, auditing of inpatient and clinical services, and ensuring compliance with Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) standards. Amid these duties, CAPT Stowe developed a computer-based pharmacokinetics program. He also aided in the development and implementation of a pharmacy-based anticoagulation clinic and the hospital-wide use of automated dispensing cabinets. Amongst his other duties, CAPT Stowe has the opportunity to participate on the cardiac code team.

QUALIFYING SKILLS FOR CURRENT POSITION:

Throughout his career as an IHS pharmacist, CAPT Stowe has had the opportunity to gain extensive knowledge in several areas of pharmacy. His commitment to patient care has earned him respect and admiration from other health care professionals. CAPT Stowe's previous assignments provided him with a strong background in administration and his previous experiences in leadership roles helped him qualify for his current position.

REASONS FOR CHOOSING THE USPHS AS A CAREER:

CAPT Stowe made his choice to pursue a career in the USPHS because he realized there were opportunities at that time for pharmacists to practice advanced patient care, especially when compared to the private sector. He admits that the government benefit package and opportunities for annual leave were also part of his decision.

PREVIOUS USPHS ASSIGNMENTS:

CAPT Stowe began his USPHS career as a Field Health Pharmacist at the USPHS Indian Hospital in Rosebud, South Dakota from September 1976 to January 1978. In February 1978 he became the Deputy Chief Pharmacist at the same facility and served in that position until June 1978. During this time he helped to develop chronic and acute care pharmacy-based protocols to provide guidelines for the treatment of certain diseases. In July of the same year, CAPT Stowe moved south to fill a position as a Staff Pharmacist at W.W. Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah, Oklahoma where he coordinated and developed a pharmacy-based penicillin skin testing program.

He left this position in June of 1980 and transferred as a Staff Pharmacist to the newly built Carl Albert Indian Health Facility in Ada, Oklahoma. In this position, CAPT Stowe established inpatient and outpatient services, procured supplies for the pharmacy to begin functioning, and supervised pharmacy students. He was involved in the development of a chemotherapy certification program for nursing staff, a clinical pharmacokinetics program, a total parenteral nutrition program, and several pharmacy-related computer programs. CAPT Stowe developed programs that allowed pharmacists to provide primary care to acute care patients. He also developed pharmacy clinics to manage patients with hypertension, patients undergoing tuberculosis prophylaxis, as well as patients using oral contraceptives.

CAPT Stowe became the Inpatient Assistant Chief Pharmacist at the USPHS Indian Hospital in Lawton, Oklahoma in May 1988. He supervised staff pharmacists and pharmacy students while coordinating inpatient pharmacy services. His next move would take him north to become the Chief Pharmacist at the USPHS Indian Health Center in Ft. Hall, Idaho, where he supervised pharmacists and Pharm.D. students in an ambulatory care facility. Under his guidance, the clinic received "the highest scores" the JCAHO surveyor had ever given. During this time he also began to pursue his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Idaho State University. In January 1992, CAPT Stowe returned to Tahlequah, Oklahoma to function in his current role as the Inpatient Assistant Chief Pharmacist.

MOST REWARDING USPHS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

CAPT Stowe feels as though his entire career as a USPHS has been rewarding. But, having to choose a specific moment, he explained the time he spent as a staff pharmacist at the Carl Albert Indian Health Facility in Ada, Oklahoma. At the time, the facility was brand new and he was able to be involved with starting a pharmacy from the ground up and helping to develop the daily processes necessary for the pharmacy to

function.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS/ACTIVITIES:

- Member, National Committee for the Development of Disease Management Protocols for the Indian Health Service
- Faculty Member of Clinical Pharmacy Training, Clinical Support Center, Phoenix, AZ
- USPHS Commissioned Officers Association
- Associate Professor Northeastern Oklahoma State University School of Optometry, Tahlequah, OK
- Chairperson, HIS Admissions Committee for the Non-Traditional Pharm.D. Program
- Liaison Officer between the Indian Health Service and Idaho State University College of Pharmacy
- Adjunct Faculty Appointment, Idaho State University, Southwestern Oklahoma State University & University of Oklahoma
- Faculty Member of Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) training Team, W.W. Hastings Hospital, Tahlequah, OK

SPECIAL NOTES OF INTEREST:

- Oklahoma Area IHS Pharmacist of the Year, March 1986 & Feb 1994
- IHS Senior Pharmacist of the Year, June 2003
- IHS Director's Award, Oct 2003

By Lori Alred